



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2004

Missing Explosives -- More Evidence Bush Screwed Up

by Michael in New York on [10/28/2004 11:23:00 AM](#)

The New York Times quotes several Iraqis as **eyewitnesses to looting** of Al Qaqaa AFTER the US military swept through.

"The Iraqis described an orgy of theft so extensive that enterprising residents rented their trucks to looters," reports the NYT.

"The accounts make clear that what set off much if not all of the looting was the arrival and swift departure of American troops, who did not secure the site after inducing the Iraqi forces to abandon it.

"The looting started **after** the collapse of the regime," said Wathiq al-Dulaimi, a regional security chief, who was based nearby in Latifiya."

And even if much of the explosives were removed before the invasion -- and there is NO evidence it was while a lot of circumstantial evidence and direct evidence that it was removed after -- none of that would exonerate the Bushies. They were told repeatedly that this was a highly important site by the IAEA that urged them to secure it and they didn't even KNOW the explosives were missing until more than a year after the invasion. How is that anything but incompetence?

A good soldier trying to provide cover fire for Bush:

"Col. David Perkins, who commanded the Second Brigade of the Third Infantry Division, called it "very highly improbable" that 380 tons of explosives could have been trucked out of Al Qaqaa in the weeks after American troops arrived.

"Moving that much material, said Colonel Perkins, who spoke Wednesday to news agencies and cable television, "would have required dozens of heavy trucks and equipment moving along the same roadways as U.S. combat divisions occupied continually for weeks."

Yeah, well Col. Perkins seems to have forgotten that other scandal -- the missing equipment useful for building bombs that was ALSO extremely heavy and would have taken weeks to dismantle and carry away on large trucks. Actually, it's pretty ridiculous that the media hasn't linked these two stories. Kerry should say, "This isn't the first time Bush has allowed dangerous material to fall into the hands of the bad guys..."

More from Col. Perkins:

"He conceded that some looting of the site had taken place. But a chemical engineer who worked at Al Qaqaa and identified himself only as Khalid said that once troops left the base itself, people streamed in to steal computers and anything else of value from the offices. They also took munitions like artillery shells, he said.

"Mr. Mezher, the mechanic, said **it took the looters about two weeks to disassemble heavy machinery** at the site and carry that off after the smaller items were gone."



JOHN'S PHOTOS



HOT OFF THE WIRE

HuffPost Politics

Jeffrey Smith: Governor Sebelius Must Veto Kansas Bill That Endangers Milk Safety - Governor Sebelius wants to be our new Secretary of Health and Human Services. But before she is sworn in, she has an important job to...

8 minutes ago

Daily Kos

Open Thread and Diary Rescue - *Tonight's Rescue Rangers are Louisiana 1976, jlms qkw, shayera, dopper0189, ybruti, and srkp23 with vcmvo2 editing.* ~ World order will be secured only ...

23 minutes ago

Crooks and Liars

C&L's Late Night Music Club: The 50 State Strategy with The Pine Box Boys (CA) - Title: Mr. Skeleton Artist: The Pine Box Boys San Francisco isn't known for Bluegrass, but maybe if there were more bands like The Pine Box Boys, it would ...

28 minutes ago

Eschaton

The Stupids - When I was growing up what always pissed me off more than anything was when my sense of justice was violated. I'm not claiming that my sense of such things...

55 minutes ago

Firedoglake

Late Nite: Michele Bachmann Stars in "Birth of an Aberration" - Minnesota's wackiest export treads the boards of the Wingnut dinner theater.

1 hour ago

Show All